Learning Conversation Notes	
Name of Partner:	Date:
PEACE for Families	October 26, 2005
Number of Children Served: 13	<b>Ages:</b> 0 yr (2), 1 yr (4), 2 yr (3),
	3 yr (2), 4 yr (1), 5 yr (1)
When Served:	Gender: Ethnicity:
March 1 – September 13, 2005	8 - Male 8 - Caucasian
	5 - Female 3 - African Amer.
	2 - Hispanic
	There were also 17 siblings of the above children were over 6 years old. There were 10 mothers of the 30 children.
	Seven of the 13 were in the shelter before March (but weren't counted in previous demographics).

**Conversation Participants:** Claudia Nakata, Jenni Toedtemeier, Linda Frey, Nancy Baggett, Don Ferretti, Mike Romero, Fiona Tuttle, and Janice Critchlow

#### **Outcomes:**

Mothers use positive communication and parenting to keep their children safe, healthy, at home, learning and supported.

A financial sustainability plan will exist and be implemented.

### Performance Measures:

Demographics:

Age

Gender

Ethnicity

When service was provided

Placer Early Childhood Outcome Screens

The financial sustainability plan along with evidence of implementation.

## What is this data telling us about achievement of outcomes?

## **Demographics**

More very young children during this time period.

Mainly Caucasian children but more children that are African American than many of the other Placer First 5 projects.

Some mothers are better with younger children than their older children.

#### **Outcome Screens**

Children seem to be doing better at exit than entrance.

Some children were only in shelter in 4 days and some more than 200 days. This may be skewing data.

Indicators 5 and 9 didn't change. Looks like children were pretty healthy at entrance.

PEACE has experienced a big turnover in staff. No one who filled out the outcome screens could be at this Learning Conversation.

#### **Indicator #10: Achieving appropriate level of emotional development.**

One 3-year-old boy came in at a 1. After his stay of 150 days, he moved to a 4 on several indicators. His mother was able to calm down with help of the parenting classes, attending the child interaction lab, and observing other mothers.

Individual therapy is given to children three years and older.

The combination of case management with crisis counselors, therapy sessions, and groups really helped adjust the behaviors of the moms. They use more positive communication and interact with children differently.

None of them were achieving this indicator upon entry but all were at a 3 or higher at exit.

Initially, six of the children were at a 2 or below. But at exit only two were at a 1 and those children were at the shelter only 4 days.

When some children come in, they're experiencing shell shock and may be still and hiding behind moms. Could be interpreted as self-comforting behavior. Thus may be rated higher on this indicator. Then later when the child is more comfortable, the child may show distress and score may go down.

## Indicator #16: Experiencing age-appropriate social relationships with other children.

The children who were at a 4 on entrance, were under one or two years old.

Nine out of thirteen kids ended up at a 4 by exit.

Major strategy for this indicator is lots of supervised playtime. Also, practice scenarios in parent-child group. Having a predictable schedule helps the children as well.

## Indicator #18: Parent/Caregiver: Experiencing a positive relationship with the child.

One mom was compliant with program but resistant to parenting feedback. That may explain why her child began at a 2 and ended at a 2.

Another mom did better with her two-year-old than her four-year-old. However, the four-year-old may have been more aware of the circumstances.

On exit, 11 of the 13 parents were experiencing a positive relationship with their children.

# Indicator #19: Parent/Caregiver: Engaged in positive parenting and child development practices.

On entrance, twelve parents were at a 3 or lower on this indicator.

For the mom who entered at a 4, the mom was a model client. She had child development background. She was very helpful with other mothers.

At exit, the two children who stayed at a 1 were siblings who were in the program for only 4 days.

At exit, ten of the parents were engaged in positive parenting to some degree.

Therapy, crisis counselor interaction, and groups helped obtain this progress.

# Indicator #20: Parent/Caregiver: Satisfied with their knowledge of and ability to foster the child's development.

This doesn't address whether the knowledge is correct but rather if the mom is satisfied.

One person declined. That may be because the parent learned more about parenting and is now somewhat dissatisfied by her knowledge. Could be an effect of having different raters at entrance and exit.

Coming from a domestic violence family, girls may learn they need to be quiet. Culturally, some moms are loud. As a culture, we may be treating boys and girls differently. All of these factors may affect how a child/parent is rated on an Indicator.

#### Overall trend

On the average, the longer a family has been in the shelter, the children and parents tend to do better on exit.

## **Sustainability**

#### **History of Sustainability Issue**

Early First 5 money for the shelter showed great results for the children. However, once the money wasn't there, the program was not delivered.

#### Plan

PEACE has not established a dollar goal for sustainability yet.

There does not seem to be a formal written **Plan** to achieve sustainability for this program.

#### **Donor Software**

Jenni explained the GiftMaker Pro Software for Donor Tracking. It will be very helpful to capture the donor data. Shows that PEACE is implementing a strategy that will address sustainability.

#### **Grants writing**

Another strategy being implemented for sustainability is grants writing.

Hiring Jenni for the Fund Developer position was a result of last year's Scope of Work.

Jenni showed her Grants Log. All the items saying "children's therapy" would support this program. None have been received as yet.

Over a dozen grants have been submitted since May or are being written.

Strategies that have been implemented: Jenni has been hired, software has been purchased, and PEACE has applied for some funding.

## In what ways will we apply what we have learned from our data?

#### **Process for Outcomes Screens**

The way PEACE fills out the form is not consistent. PEACE will be looking at this.

Staff turnover at PEACE could be a contributing factor in how the Outcome Screens are filled out. Needs to be a group process. Staff all needs to be on same page. Since PEACE deals with children in crisis, PEACE may need to address how the indicators will be interpreted within a domestic violence context. Make the definitions work for PEACE.

For this contract, PEACE needs to use all 20 indicators. There may be some that PEACE may want to focus on.

Process idea: write stories down immediately. Note why a certain indictor was chosen.

If someone scores low in an area, that should be woven into the case management plan. Not seeing this currently. Claudia wants to address this. Staff needs to have the information available to understand the changes over time that caused the improvement or decline. What are the strategies to get this done properly? Consistent practice is needed. Staff needs to have the same mindset.

Data had been sent to Data Entry piecemeal. Recently changed so rater can keep the screen and send entry and exit information to Data Entry at one time. Also, will be able to compare with data at entrance.

#### **Preschool**

Look at rates of the older children enrolled in preschool. Preschool offers much enrichment. If children aren't enrolled, could they be? (May already be enrolled.)

Older children are enrolled in Community School, within 5 days.

## **Brain Development**

Need a workshop on brain development for parents. However, in the moment, moms could be reinforced. "You're building a better brain right now by reading to your child."

There are brain development messages in the New Baby Kits.

## Other points that were made during the conversation:

## Strategies:

**Shelter Support:** Counseling, education and training, family activities, case management, child development activities, and health services will all be offered.

**Community Support:** Links will be made with other programs to assist these women and their children.

**Sustainability:** The financial sustainability plan developed in FY 2004/2005 will be implemented. Evidence of implementation will exist, e.g. operation of new donor tracking software.

## **Next Steps:**

## **Sustainability Plan:**

Need to have a Sustainability Plan. This includes a written plan with goals, funding, what PEACE will do, goals, dollar amounts, strategies, and has a way to track whether those things have happened.

Bring written demographics to next Learning Conversation.

### **Next meeting:**

Monday, February 27, 8:30 am - noon